

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVAL OF A DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANT SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH THE CENTER FOR HEALTHY AGING TO DEVELOP AND
PROVIDE A MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT
OLDER ADULT CERTIFICATE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2007- 08
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

REQUEST

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute a Department of Mental Health (DMH) Consultant Services Agreement (Agreement), with the Center for Healthy Aging (CHA), for the development and provision of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Older Adult Certificate Training Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-08, in an amount not to exceed \$240,000, fully funded by MHSA Community Services and Supports (CSS) funds, effective upon the date of execution through June 30, 2008.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute future amendments to this Agreement and establish as a new Total Compensation Amount (TCA) the aggregate of the original Agreement and all amendments, provided that: 1) the County's total payment to the contractor under this Agreement for FY 2007-08 shall not exceed an increase of 20 percent from the applicable revised TCA; 2) any such increase shall be used to provide additional services or reflect program and/or policy changes; 3) the Board of Supervisors has appropriated sufficient funds for all changes; 4) approval of County Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or their designees is obtained prior to any such Amendment; 5) the parties may, by written Amendment, reduce programs or services and revise the applicable TCA; and 6) the Director of Mental Health shall notify the CEO's office after execution of the Amendment.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Approval of the recommended actions will allow DMH to engage the services of CHA to develop and deliver an Older Adult Certificate Training Program. The program will address the unique developmental, physical, social and emotional needs of older adults, ages 60 and above, to enable clinicians to appropriately evaluate, assess, diagnose and treat serious mental health disorders commonly found in this population.

BACKGROUND

The State-approved MHSA CSS Plan focuses on recovery-oriented services for children and transition-age youth with serious emotional disturbances and adults and older adults with severe and persistent mental illness. Special emphasis is placed upon provision of services for individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, incarcerated or at risk for incarceration, or placed in long-term locked mental health facilities or at risk for such a placement because of their mental illness. The CSS Plan is also focused on adequately and appropriately addressing the unique needs of the diverse ethnic and racial groups in our County.

The Agreement reflects the MHSA Stakeholders' recommendations that were included in the MHSA CSS Plan, which was approved by your Board. The emphasis of the training is on increasing the capacity of the public mental health system to deliver the most effective mental health services that promote recovery and wellness to the older adult population.

Professionals currently delivering or administering mental health services to older adults within the public mental health system as well as professionals who have been trained to work with other populations (e.g. adults) and who are preparing to work with older adults will be eligible to enroll in the training program. Participants successfully completing the program will receive continuing educational units applicable to the California Boards of Nursing, Behavioral Sciences and Psychology, and a university granted certificate of completion.

The recommended actions will have no impact on net County cost. The cost of the contract, not to exceed \$240,000, is fully funded by MHSA CSS funds, including \$100,000 of ongoing MHSA funding and \$140,000 of one-time carryover funding from FY 2006-07. The FY 2007-08 Adopted Budget includes the \$100,000 of ongoing funding. Upon Board approval of this action, the additional \$140,000 in appropriation and revenue will be included in the FY 2007-08 Supplemental Budget Resolution, anticipated to be submitted to your Board for approval later this month.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On November 16, 2006, DMH issued Request For Services (RFS) No. 11 to ten (10) qualified bidders on the Master Agreement list that had indicated an interest in providing an Older Adult Certificate Training Program on their Statement of Qualifications. DMH sent these agencies a notice of the release of the RFS along with a compact disc of the RFS, and invited them to attend a mandatory Proposers' Conference on

February 1, 2007. Representatives from eight (8) contract agencies attended the Proposers' Conference.

DMH received three (3) proposals by the deadline of March 5, 2007. Subsequently, DMH convened a review panel of five (5) individuals representing consumers, other County departments, and DMH staff to assess and score the proposals. Simultaneously, a review of the budget, proposed staffing, quality assurance processes, and reference contacts was conducted by DMH staff. Based on this evaluation, CHA was recommended for award of this contract

Neither of the two (2) agencies which were not awarded funding has requested a debriefing; therefore, no appeals are pending.

Board approval of the proposed agreement will address the historic lack of specialized training provided to mental health professionals in delivering services to older adults, age 60 and older, who have serious mental illness. The implementation of the MHSA CSS Plan for Older Adults, which includes a Full Services Partnership program and a Field Capable Clinical Services program, will enable new staff from various disciplines to provide effective, recovery-oriented mental health services that are sensitive to the unique needs and challenges faced by older adults. Moreover, there will be an increase in the capacity of the public mental health system to meet the needs of the expanding number of older adults with mental illness who are expected to require services from the public sector in the future.

DMH CONTACT

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